



NEWS RELEASE

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STEPTOE ANNOUNCES THE AVAILABILITY OF \$6 MILLION IN RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (RCDI) GRANT FUNDS

Morgantown, WV – July 13, 2006: Rural Development State Director Robert M. Steptoe, III, today announced the availability of approximately \$6 million nationwide for the Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) program.

These grant funds will be made to qualified intermediary organizations that will provide financial and technical assistance to recipients to develop their capacity and ability to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development. The intermediary will be required to provide matching funds in an amount at least equal to the RCDI grant. The respective minimum and maximum grant amount per intermediary is \$50,000 and \$300,000.

The deadline for receipt of an application is 4 p.m. eastern standard time, October 10, 2006. Entities wishing to apply for assistance may download the application requirements from the RCDI web site: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/rcdi/index.htm>.

Further information on the Rural Community Development Initiative and guidelines for filing an application can be found in the July 12, 2006 Federal Register at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/06-6150.htm>.

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Further information on USDA Rural Development may be obtained by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>. In West Virginia, call 1-800-295-8228 to be put in touch with the appropriate personnel serving your county. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202.720.2600 (voice and TDD).

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